1947 MOUNT DIABLO W6CX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WWW.MDARC.ORG

THE CARRIER

The monthly newsletter for the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club

Friday March 20, 2026 7pm
Our Saviors Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane Lafayette
License Testing 5:30pm

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NASA Astronaut
Tracy C. Dyson, KF5DBF

THIS MONTH

ARRL UPDATE

Presented by Pacific Division Director John Litz, NZ6Q

NZ6Q was just re-elected Pacific Division Director for a three year term. His presentation will focus on the January 2026 American Radio Relay League Board of Directors meeting in Newington, Connecticut with plenty of time for audience questions and answers.

The meeting will also be held virtually, via the Zoom video system. The meeting access ID and password will be distributed via groups.io email announcement.

We have many accomplished and experienced club members. After all, we are an ARRL Special Service Club! The club is looking for amateur radio or communications topics that you or someone you know could present at a future club meeting.

An alternative might be several short presentations on different topics made by multiple persons.

Please direct your suggestions to info@mdarc.org.

Your contribution is vital for the continued success of MDARC. We are eager to hear from you!

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE FREE CLUB E-MAIL GROUP AT:

https://groups.io/g/MDARC

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Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX
P.O. Box 23222 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 288-1730 info@mdarc.org

The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

President - Larry Bradley, KK6QPE
Vice President - Mark A. Cloud, W6SXA
Secretary – Brian Lotter, KM6NGS
Treasurer - Barbara Whysong, K6WHY
Emergency Coordinator - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB

Directors At Large
Margaret Campos, AJ6LP Cal Vasquez, K6VT
Trevor Hall, WA6JAU Mike Warren, W6MEW

Membership Chair – Jan Kulisek, KM6NFC
mdarcmembership@mdarc.org

PACIFICON

Chair: Julie Mah, WJ8MAH
Registration: Jim Marchetti, KD7G
Treasurer: Barbara Whysong, K6WHY
Secretary: Jeff Mah, N8MAH

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS

Annual Auction - **vacant**
Communications Trailer - Mike Warren, W6MEW
Communications Van MDARC-1 - Jim Tittle, K6SOE
Digital Media - Grant Bowman, K6CBK
Education & Training - **vacant**
Field Day - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Good & Welfare - Diana Sage, KA6TZU
Holiday Dinner - Misa Siemons, KJ6BUE
License Testing - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Outreach - Dick Wade, WM6G
Programs - Mark A. Cloud, W6SXA
Public Service - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Radio Equipment Lending - Cal Vasquez, K6VT
Refreshments - Elizabeth Styles, KG6HLV
Scholarship - Janice Fujii, KG6VTD
Technical Committee - Jim Tittle, K6SOE
Volunteer Classes - Dick Wade, WM6G
W6CX Repeater Trustee - Jim Tittle, K6SOE
W6LGW Callsign Trustee - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB

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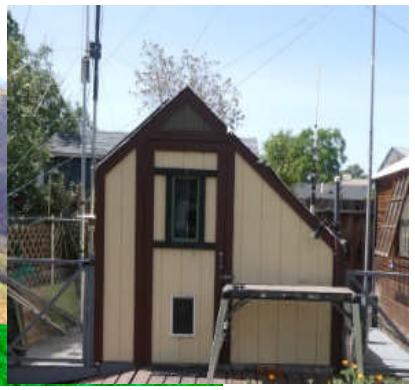


MDARC Family,
I don't know about your house, but Spring has definitely sprung at our house. Along with Spring comes opportunities for public service and a chance to put those amateur radio skills to good use. For me it is also the time to "relearn" how to manually program my HTs. Also, an opportunity to brush up on using APRS and other modes like DMR that are gaining popularity at these public service events.

Speaking of these public service events, there is a good listing on MDARC's website of events that are sponsored by MDARC and other local clubs, so there is no lack of opportunities. Take advantage of it. Newbies are welcome and there is always somebody you can work alongside so you can learn and gain confidence.

What's that shaking? Earthquake? Unless you live near San Ramon and have recently experienced the earthquake swarms, you probably like so many of us, take a very lackadaisical attitude when it comes to earthquakes. This is even the case when we say, "not if, but when." Major earthquakes in the SF Bay Area pose the greatest risk of a major disaster. It is for this reason that we have such disaster preparedness exercises as the Beacon Exercise to be held on April 30. With a disaster scenario involving an 8.8 magnitude earthquake along the San Andreas Fault, you can be certain there will be major damage throughout the area. During such a disaster, amateur radio plays an important part and many cities have a cadre of hams who provide auxiliary communication support to the city and county EOCs. Want to learn more? Check out this link: https://www.beaconexercise.org .

Even if you will not be participating in the Beacon Exercise, I encourage everybody to take the CERT Basic Training course from your local city. This will better prepare you for a disaster such as earthquake when you may be required to be without support services for an extended number of days. Oh, by the way, since each city in Contra Costa County that teaches this CERT course uses the same slides and materials, you can take the course anywhere within the county and transfer it to your home city.

Ham radio operators often encourage non-Hams to get a Technician Class License. And I am all for that, but also realize that for many people, it is not something they will do. For those people, I encourage them to get a GMRS license because for $35 that license covers family members, good for 10 years and does not require passing a license exam. This gives them and their family a better communication tool than the FRS radio they most likely already have.

At the recommendation of Benjo, KA6BJS, I have started to expand my GMRS capabilities by purchasing two items that will provide better coverage using my existing GMRS HT:
Ed Fong's DBJ-GMRS 5dB gain base antenna
BTECH Amp-U25 amplifier for 400-480MHz

So now I have the gear ready to find a suitable "home" in my ham shack to make it all work. Stay tuned!

(continued on following page)

Interested in attending a fair? When we think of a fair we often have this image in mind. But you should also consider the annual CCC Science & Engineering Fair. If you ever have the opportunity to attend one of these fairs, you would be amazed at many of the projects that 7th through 12th grade students exhibit. Did you know that the MDARC Board routinely budgets for a $700 sponsorship for this fair? From that amount, we provide $200 in awards to those students we feel pertain to our amateur radio hobby.

https://ba-leeds.org/science-fair/

Earlier this March, Janice, KG6VTD; Larry, KI6LNB; Barb, K6WHY, and Larry, KK6QPE attended this Fair and served as "special awards judges." As we meandered through the exhibits, we identified eight that were candidates for MDARC's award(s). After lunch when the students were present, we interviewed each of our candidates and then compared notes to determine our selection. In this case, we selected two projects:

ENG0703T Testing Optimal Battery Storage Conditions. This project was completed by two 7th graders to show the effects of temperature exposure extremes for LIPO batteries. We felt that since batteries are an essential power source for public service and emergency events, this project related to amateur radio activities. It required the use of a multimeter to measure voltage. Many of us have unheated or uncooled ham shacks that are subject to temperature fluctuations that could affect battery performance and useful life. Although in California we do not experience long term extreme temperatures, there are certainly other states that do so. Want to know which temperature extreme had the most negative effect of LiPo batteries? See below.

We awarded this team $100 that was divided between the two students.

ENG1003T Conductivity and Ion Concentration of Common Liquids. This project was completed by two 10th graders to demonstrate electrical conductivity through liquids that nearly all of us have at home. It was a project to show how ions and their concentration are instrumental in passing an electric current through a liquid. They used a multimeter to measure electrical resistance. We felt it was a prelude to learning about the ionosphere and its relation to amateur radio. Want to know the most conductive liquid they tested? See below.

We also awarded these students a $100 that was divided between the two students.

And there was a bonus for our attendance….LUNCH.

Cold temperature e.g. 40˚F

Gatorade®

73, Larry Bradley, President
KK6QPE, WSEI-583

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club

Membership Renewal (Jan 1- Dec 31)

Date: _____ Call (or SWL):_____ License Class: ☐ E ☐ A ☐ G ☐ T ☐ N

Name: _____ Nickname: _____

Address: _____ City:_____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (___) _____ Cell Phone: (___) _____

Your E-mail: _____

Spouse or Partner's Name: _____ Spouse or Partner's Call (or SWL): _____

Spouse or Partner's Unique E-mail: _____

Circle any phone numbers or e-mail address above that you do NOT want listed in the club roster.
Please note, we take care to ensure that member information is never used for non-club or commercial purposes.

Note: You may add a maximum of 3 Family Members at the same address. Attach page with details for this.

Additional Information

- Membership Card: If you would like to have a new membership card mailed to you please send a SASE to the Membership Chair, Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 23222, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-0222.
- Are you an ARRL member? This is important to maintain MDARC's Special Service Club status with ARRL. ☒ ARRL Member ☐ ARRL Life Member

Gift Membership

If you would like to give this membership as a gift to someone else, please fill in the above personal information with the recipient's information; and the below with your own information. In the instructions, please let us know if you want your name withheld from the recipient, and if please let this when we may advise the recipient of this gift membership.

Gift-giver's Name: _____ Gift-giver's Callsign (if any) _____

Gift-giver's contact information (e-mail or phone no.): _____

Instructions: _____ ☐ Anonymous

Fees

MDARC DUES for Individual or Family membership at the same address: **This includes the electronic Carrier newsletter emailed monthly**	**$45.00**	$
Student membership: (Full-time student, 24yr old max **This includes the electronic Carrier newsletter emailed monthly**	**$15.00**	$
Carrier Newsletter: Optional *Paper* Copies & Mailing – Additional cost for paper copies and monthly mailing. It does NOT include the Directory – contact Membership.	**$18.00**	$
Repeater Support Donation – Help us keep your repeaters on the air with $5 to $50?		$
Total:		$

Please make your check payable to MDARC and mail to:

MDARC
PO Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-0222

MDARC Telephone: 925-288-1730
INFO@MDARC.ORG

Office Use Only

Date	ID#	$	Ck#	Intls

Or Renew at below link:

https://www.mdarc.org/about-us/joinrenewupdate

Rev 2020-12-15

$$ Donations $$

Donations by MDARC members and non-member supporters and by Pacificon enthusiasts are an important source of income for MDARC. Donations we receive support our Mt. Diablo repeaters, our MDARC operating expenses, license testing for candidates, and a number of Pacificon activities and operating expenses. We gratefully appreciate our generous donors!

Anyone who donated in 2025, any amount (even $5!), and who wants a receipt for their taxes, please send a request to treasurer@mdarc.org.

PACIFICON 2026 ANNOUNCEMENT

I am proud to announce that PACIFICON, the ARRL Pacific Division Convention, will be held October 16, 17, 18, 2026 again at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel, 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon, California.

Registration opens on April 1, 2026 and closes at midnight on October 1, 2026.

Registration prices are the same as 2025. Enjoy the antenna seminar, lots of vendors with special deals, transmitter hunts, kit building and a variety of amateur radio forums.

73,

Jim Marchetti, KD7G
Registration and Marketing Chair
PACIFICON 2026

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club
License Testing Dates/Locations

2026

3/20 Club Meeting: 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

MDARC will hold a license testing session on Feb. 20 at 5:30 PM, before the membership meeting, at our club's meeting site, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

This is a walk-in session – no reservation necessary. All three license levels are available for testing. Volunteer examiners are standing by for immediate testing.

Your test score is available immediately upon completion of your test. You may take all three tests at one sitting if you would like to do so. Bring your driver's license, or two school-related forms of identification, and the $15 testing fee. If you choose to use a calculator, you must demonstrate that the memory is empty. Study Well.

4/17 Club Meeting: 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

5/15 Club Meeting: 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

5/26 Class: 1578 Kirker Pass Road, Clayton (Concord)

6/19 Field Day Olympic High School, 2730 Salvio Street, Concord

6/27 Club Meeting: 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

7/17 Club Meeting: 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

8/11 Class: 1578 Kirker Pass Road, Clayton (Concord)

8/21 Club Meeting: 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

9/18 Club Meeting: 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

10/17, 10/18 Pacificon: 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon

11/20 Club Meeting: 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

12/19 1578 Kirker Pass Road, Clayton (Concord)

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS – 2026

ORCA-Oakland Marathon - Running Race **Confirmed**
Sunday, March 23, 2026
Running Race in Downtown Oakland
Radio Coordinator: Mike Pompa, KB6MP <mpompa@gmail.com>
https://www.ww6or.com/oakland-marathon-signup

MDARC-Diablo Trails Challenge - Running Race **Confirmed**
Saturday, April 4, 2026
Running Race from Castle Rock Park, Walnut Creek **Shirt size and lunch**
Radio Coordinator: Larry Loomer, KI6LNB <laryloomer@yahoo.com>
Brazen Racing https://brazenracing.com/diablotrailschallenge

The Diablo Trails Challenge is coming up on Saturday, April 4, 2026. It is a running race from Castle Rock Park in Walnut Creek to the top of Mt. Diablo, and back to Castle Rock Park. MDARC has been asked to provide the "situational awareness and emergency communication" for the event due to the lack of reliable phone service on the mountain. This event provides the opportunity for all hams of any experience to provide support from different assignment locations. All ham radio assignments are drive-up assignments on the mountain, unless you volunteer otherwise. Most assignments can be done with an HT using the MDARC repeater located at the top of the mountain. We encourage you to volunteer for this very worthwhile public service event, benefitting Save Mt. Diablo. MDARC has supported this event for many years. Please put this event on your calendar and let me know if you are interested in participating, at <laryloomer@yahoo.com> I have received confirmations from the following hams: KA6TIM, KJ6VZQ, N6BDW, KS6M, KN6CZZ, KG6PHZ, k6WHY,AJ6LP, AC6ZZ, KK6QPE, KM6SJO, KM6ZJT, KK6Q and N6RIO. There are still many more assignments on the mountain to be filled. Please let me add your call sign to the confirmation list. I hope to hear from you soon.7 3, Larry, KI6LNB

Cinderella Bike Ride - in Livermore **Confirmed**
Saturday, April 11, 2026
Ladies' Bike Ride around Livermore
Radio Coordinator: George Moorhead, KG6GEM <kg6wiu1@comcast.net>
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AEAD28A6FA7-cinderella1

MDARC-Berkeley Hills Road Race **Confirmed**
Saturday, April 18, 2026
Bike ride in the East Bay Hills
Radio Coordinator: Mark Walsh, KM6XU <mark@km6xu.com>
https://www.berkeleybike.org/?page_id=474

MDARC-MS Walk **Confirmed**
Sunday, April 19, 2026
Walk in Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek
MDARC Radio Coordinator Needed for this Event.

Devil Mountain Run **Confirmed**
Saturday, April 25, 2026
Running race in Danville
Radio Coordinator: George Moorhead, KG6GEM <kg6wiu1@comcast.net>
Sign Up: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AEAD28A6FA7-devil1

To sign up for a MDARC public service event, go to https://www.mdarc.org/public service
Go down to the Volunteer Registration Form and enter your Information for each event.
To volunteer for events from other clubs, click the sign up link listed in the event notice.

Upgrade your amateur radio license. Register now for the MDARC 2026 Level 2: General Class License Course.

Each Tuesday, March 24 - May 19, 2026 (9 sessions)
7:00-9:00 PM
Held via Zoom and In-Person at:
Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church

1578 Kirker Pass Road
Clayton, Ca 94517

Follow the link below to complete the required registration:
Level 2 General Class License Course Registration

*** General Class Get-On-The-Air (GOTA)**
Saturday, June 27, 2026 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
In-Person Only

*The Get-On-The-Air session will be In-Person only, tentatively at MDARC Summer Field Day located at Olympic High School in Concord. The GOTA session will provide practical information to make it easier to use what you learned in the license course in real applications. In this session, you will practice actually getting on the air. (We can provide the radios.)

Please go to https://www.mdarc.org/education-and-testing/class-details for course details.

SATURDAY - May 2, 2026 - BENICIA, CA

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE CLASS

Average 90% Pass Rate

Study Session followed by Exam

When: Saturday – May 2, 2026
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Test only: 1:00 PM $14

Where: Benicia Senior Center
1201 East 2nd Street, Benicia

What: Technician Class (beginner's level)
General Class Upgrade *(for licensed Techs)*
Extra Class Testing *ONLY* *Study materials for Element 4 not provided*

Cost: $35.00 *includes exam fee* - FCC $35 Fee *(not included)*
$14.00 Test Only *exam fee* - FCC $35 Fee *(not included)*

Register: beniciaarc.com/hamclass

Questions: HamRadioClass@BeniciaARC.com
or 707-742-3227 Voicemail or Text

Class size is limited and fills quickly

Reserve Your Space - Become a Ham in One Day!

Register and pay online for a guaranteed seat - No prep or prior study required

Prospective Hams: Check our video

I Passed the Test! Now What?

Become familiar with Amateur Radio operations

https://bit.ly/4ne65Xj or use the QR code

Need help? Send your questions to elmers@BeniciaARC.com

I Passed the Test! Now What?

BeniciaARC.com

Benicia Amateur Radio Club Information
BeniciaARC.com

EXAM TOOLS by SignalStuff

W5YI

Character illustration courtesy ICOM USA

N6CC WINTER FIELD DAY REPORT

By Tim Sammons, N6CC

This is a national, emergency communications preparedness exercise. It is held every January to mirror the very popular ARRL Field Day event held every June. In January the added challenge of cold weather and potentially austere conditions recognizes that “stuff happens” at any time or day.

We operated “off grid” on Mt. Diablo (CA) using (mostly) rugged military radio equipment which is ideally suited for these kinds of tasks. Plus camping. Lots of camping. And good food! We set up a hasty camp on the mountain with the primary goal of just camping, relaxing and chatting with friends on both CW and SSB voice radios.

This simple set up included a PRC-174 HF/CW/SSB Manpack, a TRC-77 CW portable and a “civilian” Heathkit HW-8 CW transceiver kit that I had build 50 years ago. Time to exercise it some more. My buddy chatting on the “Secret Squirrel Net” with the PRC-174 below:

The Heathkit HW-8 produces 3 watts output on 80-15 meters. We were using an end fed long wire “bush” antenna rigged about 15′ up for our intended short range HF NVIS work.

The HW-8 works great with the help of a small electronic keyer driven by a DIY, bomb-proof knee paddle. Powered by a 12 volt 8 AH gel cell we will run out of food a month before the battery quits. (The feral pigs and squirrels were eyeing us nervously.) Solar panels were “at the ready”.

Our campsite elevation was 2920′ feet AMSL. The weather at this site was a balmy 35-45 degrees compared to the weather in the rest of the country in January 2026. However we experienced 30-40 knot winds continuously for 36 hours through this site on the exposed western face of the mountain, the cost of great views! We were well prepared for cold but the wind got old after awhile. Good training.

This radio position also served as the Bronco Motel with my military cold weather sleeping bag within. The Bronco bed is too short to button up so I left the tailgate down with my feet protruding outside under a poncho. No problem, the raccoons were on Liberty for the weekend. I can also monitor “the nets” or get some laughs from Radio Habana Cuba while inside the bag at night. Alas, getting the soccer scores on shortwave from Radio Australia at night are a thing of the past.

Hot Wash: This was a simple, effective communications site capable of providing short and long range, reliable off-grid commuications. We made lots of contacts, ate good, had fun, exercised our camping load outs and skill sets, enjoyed the days up on the mountain and kept warm.

Mission Accomplished. “Though many have been cold, few have been frozen.”

More photos and information at https://www.n6cc.com/winter-field-day-2026-with-military-radios/

Ernesto Acebo (license pending)
Andy Comly, W5WAE
Michael Emry, KO6GAN
Hector Medina (license pending)
Taylor Monk, KN6ZJX
David Moore, K6REV
Adrienne Osborne, KK6FTC
Megan Prelinger, W6XAV
Robert Robles, KO6KOF
Frank Salzmann, KO6LJP
Kimberly Stevens, KK7AVJ

If you hear these new members on the air, please welcome them to our club.
——— *Jan Kulisek, KM6NFC, Membership Chair*

Low-Cost Receivers for Digital Amateur Television Reception Available For Sale from Club Member KA3VDT

These are DVB-S2 receivers pre-programmed for our club's 1.2 GHz W6CX DATV repeater output frequencies

Connect a 1.2 GHz vertically-polarized directional antenna, aim it at Mount Diablo's North Peak and watch the over the air repeater signal on your video monitor

Please contact Will Roberts at ka3vdt@gmail.com or visit http://laser66.com/ham/

To purchase a DATV transmitter, contact Fred Coe, WB6ASU, at wb6asu@icloud.com

The First and BIGGEST Hamswap of the Year

10 Years Strong

LOOMIS HAMFEST

An ARRL Sanctioned Event

Join The Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club For HAMFEST 2026!

Grab your gear, get your wallet, and get ready for a super swap.
We'll have coffee and donuts, Elmer tours, a test table,
prizes every 15 minutes, and SO MUCH MORE.

March 28th, 2026 @ 0700

Historic Loomis Train Depot
5775 Horseshoe Bar Road, Loomis, CA

SELLERS $10
Setup @ 0600

WIN PRIZES!

FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING

JUST ANNOUNCED
We'll be giving away a Shark RF M1KE

More Prizes Announced Soon!!

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club

Presents

HAMFEST 2026

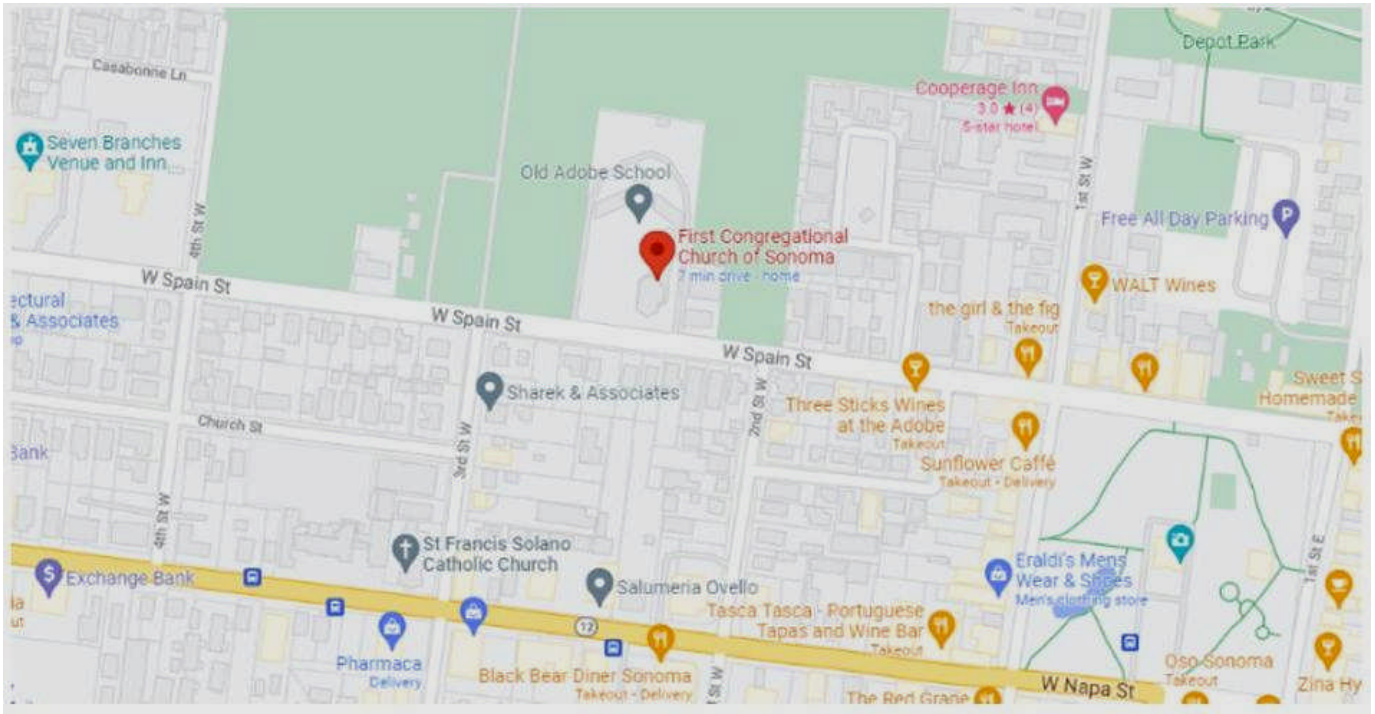
Saturday, April 18th,
8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Featuring:

- Swap Meet (outdoor spaces)
- Breakfast (pancakes, sausage and eggs)
- VE Testing Session (advance registration required)
- Station Demos
- Fox Hunt
- And more!

First Congregational Church of Sonoma
252 W Spain St, Sonoma
Talk in on 145.350 MHz (88.5 PL)
For info: valleyofthemoonarc@gmail.com

Admission: FREE
Breakfast: $10.00
Swap spaces: $10.00
http://www.vomarc.org



HAM RADIO OUTLET®

WWW.HAMRADIO.COM

May is Hamvention month at HRO!

IC-9700 | *All Mode Tri-Band Transceiver*

• VHF/UHF/1.2GHz • Direct Sampling Now Enters the VHF/UHF Arena • 4.3" Touch Screen Color TFT LCD • Real-Time, High-Speed Spectrum Scope & Waterfall Display • Smooth Satellite Operation

IC-7760 | *HF150MHZ All Mode Transceiver*

• New Design-Remote Control Head & Separate RF Deck • Dual Independent Receivers, Spectrum Scope & Waterfall • 200 Watts Output 100% Duty Cycle • Flexible Remote Operation Capabilities

IC-7300MK2 | *HF/50MHz All Mode Transceiver*

• HDMI™ Port for External Display • RX-ANT Connectors for Band Pass Filters, Preamps & Receiving Antennas • Built-In CW Decoder • APF (Audio Peak Filter) for CW Signals

IC-7610 | *HF/50 MHz All Mode Transceiver*

• Large 7-inch color display with high resolution real-time spectrum scope and waterfall • Independent direct sampling receivers capable of receiving two bands/two modes simultaneously

IC-R8600 | *Wideband SDR Receiver*

10 kHz to 3 GHz Super Wideband Coverage • Real-time Spectrum Scope w/Waterfall Function • Remote Control Function through IP Network or USB Cable • Decodes Digital Incl P25, NXDN™, D-STAR • SD Card Slot for Receiver Recorder

IC-PW2 | *HF-50 MHz 1kW Linear Amplifier*

• 1kW Output Full Duty Single Operator Two Radios (SO2R) • Built-in Automatic Antenna Tuner • Detachable Controller with Touch Screen Display • 2x6 Automatic Antenna Selector - 2 Radio Inputs & 6 Antenna Connections

IC-705 | *HF/50/144/430 MHz All Mode Transceiver*

• RF Direct Sampling • Real-Time Spectrum Scope and Waterfall Display • Large Color Touch Screen • Supports QRP/QRPp • Bluetooth® and Wireless LAN Built-in

IC-7100 | *All Mode Transceiver*

• HF/50/144/430/440 MHz Multi-band, Multi-mode, IF DSP • D-STAR DV Mode (Digital Voice + Data) • Intuitive Touch Screen Interface • Built-in RTTY Functions

IC-2730A | *VHF/UHF Dual Band Transceiver*

• VHF/VHF, UHF/UHF simultaneous receive • 50 watts of output on VHF and UHF • Optional VS-3 Bluetooth® headset • Easy-to-See large white backlight LCD • Controller attachment to the main Unit

ID-5100 AD

VHF/UHF Dual Band Digital Transceiver

• Analog FM/D-Star DV Mode • SD Card Slot for Voice & Data Storage • 50W Output on VHF/UHF Bands • Integrated GPS Receiver • AM Airband Dualwatch

IC-V3500 | *144MHz FM Mobile*

• 65W of Power for Long Range Communications • 4.5 Watts Loud & Clear Audio • Modern White Display & Simple Operation • Weather Channel Receive & Alert Function

ID-50A | *VHF/UHF D-STAR Portable*

• High Visible LCD with Backlight Function • Find Nearby Repeaters with the Built-In GPS • Easy D-STAR Settings for Beginners • Voice Recorder Function • Share Pictures in DV Mode

IC-V86 | *VHF 7W HT*

• 7W OutputPower Plus New Antenna Provides 1.5 Times More Coverage • More Audio, 1500 mW Audio Output • IP54 & MIL-STD 810G–Rugged Design Against Dust & Water • 19 Hours of Long Lasting Battery Life • 200 Memory Channels, 1 Call Channel & 6 Scan Edges

IC-T10 | *Rugged 144/430 MHz Dual Band*

• Disaster Ready - Excellent Fit for Your Emergency Bag • Loud Audio - New Speaker Design • Long Bettery Life - Up to 11 Hours • FM Broadcast & Weather Channels

ID-52A | *VHF/UHF D-STAR Portable*

• Bluetooth® Communication • Simultaneous Reception in V/V, U/U, V/U and DV/DV • Enriched D-STAR® Features Including the Terminal Mode/Access Point Mode • UHF (225~374.995MHz) Air Band Reception

RETAIL LOCATIONS – Store hours 10:00AM - 5:30PM - Closed Sunday
PHONE – Toll-free phone hours 9:30AM - 5:30PM
FAX – All store locations
ONLINE – WWW.HAMRADIO.COM
MAIL – All store locations

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instagram.com/HamRadioOutlet
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1947 MOUNT DIABLO W6CX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WWW.MDARC.ORG
The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
www.mdarc.org

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FIRST CLASS

https://www.facebook.com/mdarc.org

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W6CX Nets

M-F 5:42 am Morning Muster 147.060+ 224.780- 441.325+

M-F 6:10am Commuter Net 147.060+ 224.780- 441.325+

Monday 8:00 pm SATERN Net 147.060+

Tuesday 7:30 pm Fat City 10 meter USB/CW Net 28.420 MHz

Tuesday 8:00pm Digital Practice Net 147.060+ 224.78- 441.325+

Wednesday 6:00pm American Legion Veteran's Net 147.060+

Wednesday 7:00 pm SKYWARN Net 147.060+

Wednesday 8:00pm Delta Amateur Radio Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm Digital Amateur Television Net 147.060+

Club Voice Repeaters (FM unless otherwise noted)
147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz
224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz
EchoLink: W6CX-R /133896, IRLP: 3057
DMR Repeater 144.925 offset plus 2.5 MHz color code 1
D-STAR 145.000 offset plus 2.5 MHz
https://w6cx.dstargateway.org/

Contra Costa County Emergency Communications Nets
Every Thursday

6:30 pm HF Countywide 3.893 MHz LSB

6:45 pm West County 145.110-- (82.5 PL)

7:00 pm Central County 145.680 Simplex

7:00 pm East County 146.535 Simplex

7:00 pm South County 147.480 Simplex
7:20 pm Countywide 145.490-- (107.2 PL)
or 147.735-- (107.2 PL)
or 145.410-- (107.2 PL)

Concord Auxiliary Radio Emergency Service (CARES)
Wednesday 8:00pm 147.405 Simplex

Digital Amateur Television Repeater

Digital ATV Output: 1244.500
Digital ATV Inputs: 1292.500, 1273.0, 917.0, 430.0
Analog ATV Input: 1270.000 FM (PL 192.8)

March 2026 and April 2026 Club Calendar

Friday March 20, 2026	**7:00pm**	**MDARC General Meeting - Our Saviors Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette**
Saturday April 4, 2026	8:00am	MDARC Technical Committee Meeting - VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Monday April 6, 2026	6:30pm	MDARC Board of Directors Meeting - VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Friday April 17, 2026	7:00pm	MDARC General Meeting - Our Saviors Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

APPENDIX

CONTAINS

Meeting Minutes

MDARC General Meeting Minutes January 16, 2026

Held as a hybrid Zoom and in-person meeting.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the MDARC president Larry Bradley KK6QPE.
a. Welcome to all: Larry KK6QPE welcomed all attendees.
b. Pledge of Allegiance: This was made by attendees.
c. Safety, Exits, Rest Rooms: Larry KK6QPE indicated the positions of the emergency exits and restrooms.
d. Acknowledge new members: New members were acknowledged.
e. Acknowledge visitors: There were no visitors.

2. Minutes from Last Meeting: Larry KK6QPE announced that the November minutes, that were sent out by the Secretary, were approved since he had not heard any suggestions for changes.

3. Officer Reports:
a. President: Larry Bradley KK6QPE announced that the business section of the meeting would be very brief. He asked if any board member had an announcement, Barbara K6WHY announced that she had posted financial reports on the board at the back and invited anybody, who was interested, to look at them and ask any questions that they might have. In response to a question, Larry restated the names of the current board members.
b. ****Vice President: Mark Cloud W6SXA.
c. ****Secretary: Brian KM6NGS.
d. Treasurer: Barbara Whysong K6WHY had nothing to add to her comments above.
e. ****Emergency Coordinator: Larry KI6LNB.
4. Directors at Large Reports:
Mike Warren W6MEW; Trevor Hall WA6JAU; Cal Vasquez K6VT; Margaret Campos AJ6LP.
5. Committee Reports – Standing:
a. ****Auction. TBD
b. ****Outreach Coordinator Dick Wade, WM6G
c. ****Technical. Jim Tittle, K6SOE
d. ****Digital Media. Grant Bowman, K6CBK
e. Education and Training: Larry Bradley, KK6QPE announced that the second session of the current Technician course, which covered chapter 2, has been completed. License testing will be held on March 3rd.
f. ****Pacificon Antonis Papatsaras AA6PP
g. ****Membership Jan Kulisek KM6NFC
h. Public Service: Larry Loomer KI6LNB announced the following upcoming events: LARK - Race to the Flagpole. Saturday, January 31, 2026. Running race from-to Independence Park in Livermore; SFRC - San Francisco Half Marathon. Sunday, February 1, 2026. Running Race in San Francisco; ORCA - Oakland Marathon. Sunday, March 22, 2026. Running Race in Downtown Oakland.
i. **** Vehicle Committee MDARC-1. Jim Tittle, K6SOE
j. License Testing: Larry Loomer KI6LNB announced that the MDARC License testing schedule has been posted on the ARRL website and that there were no candidates for testing tonight.
k. ****Trailer Committee. Mike Warren, W6MEW
l. Field Day: Larry Loomer KI6LNB announced that Julie Mah WJ8MAH has agreed to provide the food again this year and also that Julie had asked if the Martinez radio club could join us for Field Day this year. He gladly agreed.
m. ****Holiday Banquet. TBD
n. ****Election Committee: TBD
o. ****Program Committee.
**** not scheduled or unavailable

6. Open to All Attendees:
7. Adjourn Business Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 7:11pm.
Speaker: Mark Cloud W6SXA
Topic: Bandpass Filters
Respectfully submitted by: Brian Lotter, KM6NGS Secretary, on February 2nd 2026.

MDARC Board of Directors Meeting February 2, 2026

Held at Zoom online

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Larry Bradley KK6QPE after it was determined that there was a quorum for conducting Club business.

2. Roll Call: Attendees via Zoom screen shots:
Officers: Larry Bradley KK6QPE, President; Mark Cloud W6SXA, Vice President; Brian Lotter KM6NGS, Secretary; Barbara Whysong K6WHY, Treasurer; Larry Loomer KI6LNB, Emergency Coordinator; Mike Warren W6MEW, Director at Large; Trevor Hall WA6JAU, Director at Large; Margaret Campos AJ6LP, Director at Large.
Committee Chairs/Coordinator: Jan Kulisek KM6NFC; Antonis Papatsaras AA6PP.
Guests: Mike Patterson N6JGA; Bob Green K6GD.

3. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting: Trevor WA6JAU, seconded by Barb K6WHY, proposed a motion to approve the January Board of Directors Meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Adopt Tonight's Agenda: The agenda was adopted since no objections were heard.

5. Officer reports:
a. President Larry Bradley KK6QPE – Had no report.
b. Vice-President Mark Cloud W6SXA – Mark reported that he has speakers lined up for this month, next month and is working on one for April.
c. Secretary Brian Lotter KM6NGS – Had no report
d. Treasurer Barbara Whysong K6WHY – Barbara had no report for tonight since this month's bank statements were not available yet.
6. Emergency Coordinator Report: Larry KI6LNB had nothing to report.

7. Directors at large reports: Mike Warren W6MEW – Had no report. Trevor Hall WA6JAU – Had no report. Margaret Campos AJ6LP – Had no report. Cal Vasquez K6VT – Had no report.

8. Committee Reports:
a. Auction: No report was expected.
b. Communications Trailer: Mike W6MEW had nothing to report.
c. Digital Media: Mike N6JGA reported that Grant Bowman K6CBK was not able to attend tonight but that he had been working on some drive.google.com permissions for Brian KM6NGS and that he needs to set up a workspace for that. Grant is hoping that he and Mike N6JGA can work on that in the next couple of days.
f. Education and Training: Larry KK6QPE reported that the Technician course is going on "full steam". The schedule for the upcoming General course is out and the slides have been reviewed, updated and posted on Google Drive.
g. Election Committee: Not active at this time.
h. Field Day: Larry KI6LNB reported that Julie WJ8MAH is doing the food this year and that there is some difficulty with scheduling the GOTA class with Pete Harris KE6ZIW. He will work on getting the reservation for the Olympic High School parking lot and the Porta Potties
i. Holiday Banquet/Dinner: Larry KK6QPE noted that we are moving away from the more expensive Banquet to a less expensive option and asked for suggestions on what to call it. He tabled it for future discussion.
j. License Testing: Larry KI6LNB announced that there will be license testing before the General meeting on February 20th.
k. Membership: Jan KM6NFC reported the following numbers: Paying members 134, including family members it is 161 and including honorary members, the total is 173. Past due is 158.
l. Mesh Committee: Mike W6MEW had no updates.
m. Outreach: No report was expected.

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n. PACIFICON: Antonis AA6PP reported that they held their first meeting for the year on January 16th. They decided that the color for this year's logo will be blue. All chairs were assigned except for Forums for which he believes that he has found a really able person. A for profit company called Zero Retries, which publishes a newsletter about HAM Radio, asked for permission to hold their own mini conference at PACIFICON but the Board voted no.
o. Programs: Mark W6SXA had nothing to add to his comments in section 5b above. Larry KK6QPE advised Mark to form a team to help him with finding speakers and suggested that he contact Antonis to get some help with recruiting a team.
p. Public Service: Larry KI6LNB reported that they had done the Lafayette Race to the Flagpole on Saturday, January 31st and the San Francisco Half Marathon on Sunday, February 1st. Upcoming events are as follows; Livermore half marathon on March 1st, Oakland marathon on March 23rd and the Diablo Trials Challenge on April 4th.
q. Radio Lending Library: Cal K6VT had nothing to report.
r. Rocky Ridge Repeater (Tech): Trevor WA6JAU offered an apology for the repeater being down this morning. This happened because there was some jamming activity during the net yesterday which caused the repeater to be shut down. It did not come back up normally when restarted.
s. Scholarship: No report was expected.

9. Future Meetings:
General Meeting: 02/20/2026 will be a hybrid, in-person and online. Board Meeting 03/02/2026 on Zoom only.

10. Unfinished Business:
10.1 **2026 Budget:** Barbara presented the Budget document showing the changes that she was asked to make during the last Board Meeting. Mike W6MEW, seconded by Trevor WA6JAU, proposed a motion to approve the budget as presented by Barbara. The motion was approved unanimously. Barbara thanked everybody who helped her with the budget.
10.2 Fictitious Business Name for Pacificon: Barbara stated that she had filed it with the County, published it in the newspaper and will soon take it to the Bank.
10.3 Summary Log of Motions: Grant will send out a link to the document retention files.
10.4 License Testing Donations: There are two different donations which apply to license testing fees The first was allocated to Technician license fees only and the second was for all three categories. Larry KK6QPE proposed that the Treasurer only needs to provide the amount of remaining funds for each of the two donations. He also proposed that the Technician license fees be applied to the first donation until that balance is zero and then start charging the Technician license fees to the second donation. Barbara said that she will have the balances available next month.
10.5 Add verbiage to MDARC Registration section that indicates that an email address is optional, but without an email address, they will not receive a ballot to elect MDARC Board members and other important information from the Club: Larry KK6QPE stated that he expects to have time to work on this soon.
10.6 Has the webpage been updated? How can members indicate that they prefer to be anonymous: Barbara is working with Grant and Jan to get the website updated to allow people to choose to be anonymous or not when making donations. Barbara is also planning to email a Thankyou letter to anybody who makes a donation.
10.7 Asset List: Inventory vs Asset? Dollar cutoff amount. STATUS REPORT: This has been deferred until later.
10.8 Public Service, Sign-in sheet for 2026 in MDARC's Google Drive folder: Larry KK6QPE was concerned to find the MARS signup sheet combined with the MDARC signup sheet. Larry KI6LNB explained that Benjo KA6BJS had used the MARS signup sheet as a benchmark for MDARC signup sheet. Larry KK6QPE said that he would contact Benjo to sort this out.
10.9 HAM Radio Kits donated from Walnut Creek CERT: In response to a question from Larry KK6QPE, Margaret AJ6LP explained that the Kits were donated free and clear from Walnut Creek CERT since they did not have a way to manage loans of the kits. Margaret thinks that, if the radio kits have not been loaned out yet and are still in pristine condition, they are assets that could be utilized in some way. There are four kits each comprised of an FT65 radio with an extra 21" antenna and an alkaline battery tray. Larry KK6QPE confirmed with Margaret that she is OK with the radios remaining in the lending library. Mike W6MEW suggested that they could be used for GOTA classes since the radios that we have are not in good shape. Larry KK6QPE suggested that we offer a free Amateur Extra test to the Eagle Scout who donated the radios.

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11 New Business:
There was no new business.

12. Good of the order:
Mike said that he has sent the order for the nametags but has not heard back from Rick yet.

13. Adjournment:
Mike W6MEW, seconded by Brian KM6NGS, proposed a motion to adjourn. The motion was carried unanimously.
Meeting Adjourned at 7:49pm.
Respectfully submitted by
Brian Lotter KM6NGS
Secretary, February 22. 2026.
These meeting minutes were signed digitally due to the digital meeting.